

City of Bloomington
Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission
March 11th, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Present: Gordie Holm, Chairperson; James McCarthy, Vice Chairperson; Commissioners, Marie Holm, Peter Moe, Ben Murphy, Dave Rickert, Lenny Schmitz

Absent:

Staff: Randy Quale, Parks and Recreation Manager
Alison Evans, Recording Secretary

Visitors: Nancy Blankford, HGA Architect
Dave Hanson, Park Maintenance Manager
Mark Rogers, Public Works

Call to Order Chairperson G. Holm called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Swear in New PARC Member Chairperson G. Holm swore in Lenny Schmitz as the new PARC member with a term ending December 31st, 2017.

Item #3.1

Community Center
Needs Assessment
Presentation

Item #3.2

Nancy Blankford attended the meeting to present the Community Center Needs Assessment that is currently in progress. Blankford stated that HGA was hired to assess the current facility, Creekside Community Center, and assess the needs of a community center in Bloomington which included stakeholder meetings with current users and potential new users. She reminded the Commission that this is a high level project overview. Blankford stated her findings in that the community needs included common gathering spaces, education spaces, fitness, gymnasium, community services offices, department of motor vehicle and public health offices as well as many more. The findings also show interest in the space providing a comfortable and welcoming space to all with the ability to integrate communities and serve all cultures, generations and economic users.

Schmitz expressed his desire to have an attractor factor. He stated that you need a big ticket item to attract families and young professionals to Bloomington. He mentioned with the current priorities it does not seem that this facility would be something that would compare to other cities facilities in the area. Schmitz also stated that he felt one of the biggest challenges would be finding the best location with enough space for expansion.

Questions regarding a domed turf facility were brought up by the Commission. McCarthy expressed his strong desire for a dome to be a requirement within the Community Center, stating that currently all sports teams need to leave the City to find such a facility. McCarthy stated that he would not support a plan that does not include turfed athletic fields with preference on a dome.

Blankford shared the next steps of the project which included meeting with additional Commissions, creating an operations analysis, creating a cost estimate and finally presenting to the City Council.

City Parks Recycling Program Update Item #3.3	<p>Mark Rodgers from Public Works attended the meeting to present regarding an update on recycling in City parks. He highlighted the work that has been done to improve recycling and mentioned that the trash haul has been reduced from 31.2 tons per month to 27.68 tons per month. The new recycling program has also increased the recycling haul from 1 ton per month to over 8 tons per month. Rodgers shared with the Commission that the Public Works Department has applied for grants to help continue to improve the program, with special notice on the contamination level.</p> <p>The Commission shared their support in the recycling plan and encouraged staff to continue their efforts. Commissioner Schmitz suggested signage that uses pictures to avoid language barriers for children or those who don't speak English. Moe expressed his desire for consistency in signage and container types to avoid confusion.</p>
Review City Deer Management Plan Item #3.4	<p>The Commission reviewed the City Deer Management Plan provided by staff Londell Pease. G. Holm expressed his frustration with the road blocks that were being placed by the DNR in relation to the distribution of the deer after being shot. There was discussion regarding public hunts for deer reduction, although at this time City Ordinance does not allow this.</p>
Alternative Transportation Plan Update Item #4.1	<p>Quale presented the Alternative Transportation Plan Update. He highlighted the public input process that had been completed. Quale noted concerns that were submitted regarding the planned shoreline trail around Bush Lake. Members of the Izaak Walton League – Bush Lake Chapter as well as residents along Izaak Walton Road are opposed to the shoreline trail running along the northeast shore of the lake. They request that the trail instead run around the North Bay and bypass the Izaak Walton League's property. The Commission discussed this topic thoroughly.</p> <p>P. Moe/D. Rickert <u>to support the shoreline trail around Bush Lake and the North Bay route as it is currently recommended within the Alternative Transportation Plan.</u> The motion carried 6-1.</p>
Minnesota River Valley Master Plan Update Item #4.2	<p>Quale presented the Minnesota River Valley Master Plan update. He noted that the draft is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the PARC at the April 8 meeting with the hope that the final draft would be ready by June or July.</p>
Park Improvement Projects Update Item #4.3	<p>The Commission reviewed the park improvement projects update. Quale opened up the meeting for questions. Rickert stated his appreciation for the inclusion of Natural Resource Restorations in the future projects planning. Schmitz inquired about the schedule of City/School Joint Projects which are usually playground replacements at elementary schools. Quale stated they are typically every 3 years and usually up to the schools to determine which project is next. The Commission did not have any further questions or concerns.</p>
City Council Action Pertaining to Parks	<p>The Commission reviewed the City Council Action pertaining to Parks and Recreation from the regular meetings on February 2nd and February 23rd.</p>

and Recreation

Item #5.1

Parks and Recreation
Manager's Report

The Commission reviewed the Parks and Recreation Manager's Report. Quale highlighted the State of the City Address, Summer Super Sign Up and the upcoming MRPA and NRPA conferences.

Item #5.2

Recommendation to
Cancel March 25th
Study Meeting

M/Holm, P/Moe to cancel the March 25th, 2015 Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission study meeting.

Item #6.1

Approval of Minutes–
February 11th, 2015

J/McCarthy, P/Moe to approve the minutes of the February 11th, 2015 Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission meeting. The motion carried 6-0 with Schmitz abstaining due to his absence at the February 11th meeting.

Item #7

Adjournment

L/Schmitz, B/Murphy, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Item #8

Alison Evans

Recording Secretary